

REMARKS

Claims directed to non-elected subject matter have been canceled. New claims 21-26 have been added. Support may be found on page 2, lines 2-3, page 3, lines 3-9 and page 5, lines 21-23 and in the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Boyce et al, (U.S. 4,284,542).

Claims 1-6 are not obvious over Boyce. Boyce discloses ionomer-based hot melt adhesives and sealant compositions that have improved high temperature viscosity when it contains ammonium phosphate. The Boyce compositions find use as glass sealants or adhesives for automobile windows. Preferably, the compositions also contain an inorganic filler, such as carbon black. Various reinforcing agents may also be used. The inclusion of a polystyrene resin among the listed reinforcing agents would not render obvious applicants' adhesive comprising a thermoplastic elastomer, a tackifier, and an ionomer. There is not suggestion of the use of styrene-isoprene-styrene, styrene-b-ethylene/butylene-b-styrene, styrene-butadiene-styrene or blends thereof with ionomers and tackifying resins as required in claim 5.

Applicants' submit that the claimed invention is not obvious over the disclosure of Boyce. Withdrawal is requested.

Early and favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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